

OUR PAGE: **Special Olympics** Florida



Six years ago I was assistant coach for Special Olympics when I saw the program in danger of going under. When we

wanted to learn the game. He runs our chipping and pitching area along with Zach Bybee.

This year Josh Danley and Mark Youngblut have been helping instruct on the driving range where our golfers learn to use woods and irons. Justin



looked for volunteers, Bobbe Marion was the first and only one to step up. It has been a learning experience for both of us. She runs the putting (short and long putt) skill along with Marsha Fields.



A little history how we got to Magnolia Point. 7 years ago we were practicing at Cattail Creek which has since been closed. I contacted Ronna Smith, head of Clay County Special Olympics and she went with me to meet with Trevor and Dineen Rothfels to ask if we could use Magnolia Point and they readily accepted. On year five, I took over the coaching position and Bob Barclay stepped up to help by offering to recruit volunteers. The program has been

Myrick and Jon Love help when their schedules allow. Scorekeeping is very important to our program. I have four very good scorekeepers. Ann Sims, Lana Simmons, Steve Triay and Matthew Wright, who is a 'jack of all trades', filling in where needed.

On October 10th we held county games where they competed against each other. All received ribbons and even had a little opening ceremony. We had 6 golfers competing: in 9 holes were Mike



improving since then; we started with only two on the course and now we have six thanks in large part to Bob Barclay's efforts. We were never giving instruction and he asked why not? This really changed the program. Our golfers



used to have to find clubs with which to play. Bob put out the word and if you looked in my garage you'd think I was a golfer! Now every one of our new golfers has a bag and the appropriate clubs .

Woods partnered with Ray Forbess, Josh Haddock with John Wright, Bob Goldberg with Paul Sims, and Danielle Catlett with Taylor Young. We had a 18 hole golfer, Ryan Thomas with his father Dan Thomas (also Assistant Coach) and a three-holer Jayson Keeton with Brian Haggard.

Bob went to the University of Michigan on a golf scholarship. He also taught golf to young people

On Oct. 29 the team will be competing at Area games. Those earning 1st place ribbons will be eligible to go to state competition at Disney Oaks & Palm Course on Dec. 9th and 10th.

- CINDY TRIAY

